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A

SHORT ADDRESS

TO THE

INHABITANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN.



NO 111

INFANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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TO THE

INHABITANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN

BY

AN ENGLISHMAN

JUST RETURNED FROM PARIS.

LONDON:

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1792.

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INHABITANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN



AN EIGHT

POST RETURNED FROM LONDON

PRINTED FOR H. G. J. AND J. HOSKING, PATENTERS
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SHORT ADDRESS, &c.

THE honest wish of spending my days in a country happy, prosperous, and free; compassion for the miserable Victims, and indignation against the guilty Authors of the calamities of France, have forced from my unwilling pen this short Address. It is not my intention to give an historical account of the events of the 10th of

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August,

August, and their deplorable consequences. It is perhaps impossible at this moment to gratify the public curiosity with an exact analytical inquiry into the characters and circumstances by which they were brought about; but whenever a complete investigation of these facts shall appear, the impartial Reader will find that the present horrible situation of France was the necessary consequence of the conduct of the two contending Parties. Of the *Feuillant*, or Court Party, the leading features have been irresolution, duplicity, weak counsels, in general an undecisive plan of defence, with frequent attempts, however, to gain ground by indirect manœuvres and attacks, so feeble and ill-timed, that

they



they have constantly and ultimately turned to the enemy's advantage.

On the other hand, the spirit of the *Jacobines*, though enormously criminal, has been enterprizing, audacious, and resolute. From the first breaking out of the troubles, they have been diligent in securing the Army by corruption, in holding the Mob at their disposal by deceit, by exciting enthusiasm, or by the promise of plunder. From their situation, having nothing to lose, knowing that by threats or violence every thing might be wrested from their timid adversaries, placing their hopes principally in the fear they inspire, neglecting however no possible means

of obtaining their end, having, in their ambition, reduced their whole moral and religious system to this single word, *Success*—it cannot be surprising that, in a contest so unequal, and at a moment like the present, they should have gained a victory over their Antagonists, and that they should have disgraced it by crimes at which Humanity revolts.

Without pursuing these observations any farther, I shall state my sentiments on these events; not with respect to the influence the Revolution of the 10th of August may have on the system of Neutrality adopted by our Government; but with respect to that influence of opinion, so much
to

to be attended to in every Free Country, and which in this, by a comparison with the pursuits and enjoyments of other Nations, cannot be too often directed to a full and perfect conviction of our own advantages. I speak as an Englishman just escaped from the Capital of France; changed at once by monsters, called together from all quarters, into an uninhabitable City, the seat of terror and desolation. Those from Marseilles, proud of the self-bestowed title of *Brigands*, had already committed, at *Avignon*, acts of wanton cruelty, for which neither interest, passion, or resistance could account. Alas! but a faint prelude to the melancholy events of the 10th of August, to the
dastardly

dastardly massacre which since took place at Paris in the beginning of this month, continued during three days and three nights, and to the late horrid destruction of the State Prisoners, brought from *Orleans* to be butchered at *Versailles*.

These facts, faithfully recorded by Historians, will scarcely obtain the belief of Posterity; future ages will not think it possible that, at the end of the eighteenth century, in the Capital of a great and polished People, a small number of miscreants were suffered, first to destroy all the monuments of Art, honourable testimonies of Loyalty and Civilization, and then, with equal success, to gratify the

the same savage temper in the destruction of their fellow-creatures. Ruffians stamp'd with an indelible mark,* for offences against the sacred laws of Justice, sitting in mockery upon her awful throne, as if determined, by the deliberation of their proceedings,† to reject the excuse of passion, which time, or the indulgent pencil of History might have thrown as a softening drapery on this hideous picture of human nature,

With

* Of twelve killed in private quarrels previous to the 10th of August, eight had been to the galleys, and as such were marked with a hot iron upon the shoulder.

† Every one must have read in the Papers an account of the refined cruelty practised on the unfortunate Prisoners, under the name of Trial.

With what pangs of sorrow and shame must the humane and generous Frenchman, truly attached to his country, behold it brought to the brink of ruin by its own children, and depending for its safety and political existence on the pleasure or mercy of a Foreign Conqueror. The humiliating spectacle of his country sinking under the load of its own folly, calls forth a blush; while despair makes him look with anxious expectation to the success of the Prussian arms, as the only term to the sanguinary enormities of his countrymen. As an inhabitant of these fortunate realms, on the contrary, I feel peculiar delight, and the honest pride of heart elate with my country's welfare,

fare, in the contemplation of the individual happiness and public prosperity of England. On my return, after three years absence, finding it in a situation far more flourishing than any other nation, and unparalleled even in its own glorious annals; I behold with satisfaction, as an admirer of our excellent Constitution, the wise measures of Government to repress the criminal efforts of vice, and more particularly the good sense of the people, rejecting with disdainful pity the undigested schemes of presumptuous folly.

If ever tempted to relinquish the solid advantages they now enjoy, for empty metaphysical maxims, let them

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compare

compare for an instant the mock Tribunals of Paris, to the administration of Justice of their own Country; where Life or Liberty is never taken away but to avenge the injured Rights of Society; and where Judgement is never pronounced without a compleat investigation of Facts.*

To

* The happiness or misery of man in civil Society depends very much on the nature of the criminal code: if composed of just and humane laws, so administered by men of acknowledged merit and uncorrupted probity, as to exclude all arbitrary and cruel measures, it is certainly the great criterion of a People's Freedom and Virtue. On the contrary, cruelty, dissembling flattery, base delation, private vengeance, and all the other vices of Slavery, are the necessary consequences of barbarous punishments, arbitrarily inflicted to gratify the selfish passions of powerful individuals, or the momentary interests of a ruling Faction. The Criminal Institutions of England are objects of general admiration.

To those who, misled by error, vanity, or false ambition, are ready to employ their fortunes, rank, or eloquence in the defence or support of such a cause, I recommend a moment's reflection on the fate of FAYETTE, BARNAVE, the Duke of ROCHEFOUCAULT, and the other leading characters of the French Revolution. High rank, a considerable fortune, the esteem of Europe, and the gratitude of America—such were the enjoyments of FAYETTE in the year 1789. What is his present situation?—Misery, an ignominious flight from persecution, and a prison. Instead of domestic happiness, he sees his family dispersed: at once objects of pity to the feeling mind, and of compunction to

the guilty Author of their unmerited fate. To the Gratitude of America he may be still entitled, but the Esteem of Europe, and the Popularity he once enjoyed, are now for ever lost.

While opposite Parties brand him equally with the stigma of treachery ; while the word *infamy* is constantly resounding in his ear from the concurrent reproaches of each ; the impartial Observer transmits him down to posterity with the character of a mistaken, weak, and indecisive Politician, fostering in vanity and ambition the hopes of rising to the *Protectorship*, and depending for success on the genius of shallow intrigue and duplicity.

To

To the BARNAVE of 1789, purchasing unsatisfactory applause by the sacrifice of every principle; infamously flattering the mob in their atrocious vengeance, and insulting the characters of their victims; let them compare the BARNAVE of 1792, given up in his turn to bitter cursings and execration. He must consider the cruel death with which he is threatened, as the consequence and reward of his past conduct, and await it with remorse, stung by the self-remembrance of the words uttered at the *Tribune* of the States General, as an apology for the first cruel murders of the populace. “ Le sang qui a coulé est il donc si pur ? ” *

Let

* “ The blood spilt, is it then of so pure a nature ? ”
 With this apostrophe, apologetical of the murder of
 Messrs.

Let men, virtuously misled by schemes of imaginary perfection, take a salutary warning from the political conduct and fatal end of the Duke of ROCHEFOUCAULT. Descended from one of the first families in the kingdom, with a fortune equal to his birth; he came to the States General with an unsullied reputation, the recompence of a life spent without ostentation, in the constant practice of every human virtue. There, judging his hypocritical Colleagues by the virtuous simplicity of his own heart, he became, in attempting to restore Liberty to a corrupt Nation, the instrument of their ambitious and destructive

Messrs. FOULON and BERTIER, on the 17th of July, 1789, he silenced their unfortunate Friends, demanding vengeance from the Assembly.

structive views; till cruelly undeceived, he retired at a late period to his family, where he remained a repentant witness of the increasing calamities of his country, until he was basely proscribed and murdered, for refusing to connive at the execrable intentions of unprincipled men, once honoured with his confidence and friendship.

The power of eloquence and the influence of fortune, must always prevail in a free and popular Government like ours. They have hitherto generally been employed to support a glorious Constitution, to increase our prosperity, and to procure to a grateful people the blessings of true Liberty;

Liberty; founded not upon captious arguments, specious theory, and plausible sophistry; but upon just and equal Laws, which insure to every man the free enjoyment of his person and of his property, encourage labour and industry, reward merit and genius, and relieve distress and misfortune. These laws are administered alike for every one, whether they punish or protect—May it be every one's study to preserve them entire and sacred!—Let the People be upon their guard, to avoid the malicious doctrines of those, who, by spreading the levelling principle of absolute *Equality*, endeavour to stir up in them the passion of *Envy*; which would destroy their own peace, and at the same

same time the peace, order, and existence of Civil Society. The Envy* of individuals first gave rise to the new and visionary doctrines, and consequent disorders of France; now that their baneful passion is gratified

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* The Author has often heard the Mob of Paris highly commended for not having stript the Palace of the *Thuilleries* of all its valuable furniture. The spirit of Envy, and not the love of Justice, actuated them on this occasion. The man who had taken possession of any valuable article, excited jealousy in those who had been less fortunate; the superiority he had acquired raised him to the rank of an *Aristocrate*, and determined his execution. When these savages destroyed the statues and ornaments of *Chantilly*, one of them having given proofs of uncommon activity, was informed that he took more upon himself than came to his share; but deaf to this hint, he continued his furious exertions with the same laudable zeal; till at last he raised a general discontent, was termed an *Aristocrate*, an enemy to Equality, a Monopolizer of *Patriotism*, and as such put to death.

in the ruin and misery of their own country, they openly avow their earnest wish to reduce this and other countries to the same situation.

Since these men enjoy uncontrouled power, their individual wish is become, perhaps, a national concern; but resisting their treacherous efforts, and deaf to their ensnaring insinuations, lend for a moment an attentive ear to the pressing calls of undeserved misfortune! Let History record that, while the Children of distracted France, weltering in the blood of their fellow-citizens, heard unmoved the piercing cries of pain, the deep groans of agony, and saw with sanguinary pleasure the convulsions of departing nature;

nature; the noble Sons of Britain, with a generosity and humanity, characteristic of a brave and free People, received those who escaped their horrid pursuits, into the fostering arms of unfeigned Benevolence.

May a tear of Gratitude close for ever the history of the Rivalry, which guilty Ambition has so long kept up between the two Nations; and for the eternal honour of ours, may it be written in the last page, that, *on this occasion, setting aside resentment, we saw with real concern the unhappy fate of the French; that when proscribed in their own country by relentless Tyrants, deprived of their Friends by cruel deaths, of their Estates by*

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*unfeeling Usurpers ; escaping to the coasts of
this Island, the favoured abode of True Li-
berty, they found Relief, Hospitality, and
Consolation.*

Sept. 1792.



FINIS.
